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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE WORK OF ITS SPECIAL SESSION HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, FROM 18 TO 22 DECEMBER 1989

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held a special session at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 22 December 1989. The Executive Board was chaired by Mrs. Margarita Dieguez (Mexico) and the Committee on Administration and Finance was chaired by Mr. Takeshi Kagami (Japan).

2. The agenda of the 1989 special session, as adopted, is contained in document E/ICEF/1989/14. A list of documents issued in connection with the 1989 special session is contained in document E/ICEF/1989/INF/1/Rev.1. The list of participants is contained in document E/ICEF/1989/CRP.27. The Committee on Administration and Finance, sitting as a committee of the whole, met on 18 December 1989 (for the report of the Committee, see the annex to the present document). The Programme Committee did not meet.

II. PLENARY MEETINGS

A. Opening session: tributes

3. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman of the Executive Board paid tribute to the memory of two individuals, well-known to the Board, who had recently died: Mr. Robert Nestdale, the first National Director of the Australian Committee for UNICEF; and Mr. Mike Jupp, the Executive Director of Defense for Children (United States). Both were devoted advocates of UNICEF work and of efforts to improve the well-being of children world-wide.

B. Introductory remarks

4. The Chairman of the Executive Board welcomed members and expressed appreciation for their participation despite the heavy meeting schedule of the General Assembly. She then explained that the special session of the UNICEF Executive Board had been called to brief Board members on the status of the proposed World Summit for Children and to obtain Board approval for UNICEF (a) to provide secretariat support for the Summit; and (b) to undertake related mobilization activities aimed at deriving maximum benefit for children from the Summit preparations.

5. It was recalled that a significant number of Governments had welcomed the proposal for a global summit meeting to discuss the situation of children as contained in the 1989 State of the World's Children report and that several had expressed the willingness of their Heads of State to participate. While all activities would be financed by additional voluntary contributions, special financial arrangements were required to enable work to begin as soon as possible.

6. Budget estimates for both the Summit and Summit-related mobilization activities (E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.15) had been submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for review, and its comments were contained in document E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.16. The secretariat had also prepared an

information note on the budget estimates (E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.17). (For a detailed discussion of the budget estimates, see the report of the Committee on Administration and Finance contained in the annex to the present document.)

7. The Executive Director also welcomed Board members to the special session, citing the high-level representation as evidence of their interest in and commitment to the proposed World Summit for Children. The Executive Director noted that the special session had been called to consider the request of the six initiating Governments (the heads of State of Egypt, Mali and Mexico and the heads of Government of Canada, Pakistan and Sweden) to convene a World Summit for Children in September 1990. (The basic plan and the Statement of Agreement are detailed in document E/ICEF/1989/15.) The Executive Director then introduced the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister of Canada, who addressed the meeting on behalf of the six initiators.

8. The Permanent Representative traced the evolution of the proposed World Summit for Children. The concept had been first discussed and agreed in principle with the Government of Canada. The Summit had since become the concrete initiative of six heads of State or Government: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; President Moussa Traore of Mali; President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico; Prime Minister Bohtarama Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan; and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden.

9. Each of the heads of State or Government had appointed a personal representative earlier in 1989 to explore further the purpose and substance of the proposed Summit. The discussions had taken place in September, October and November 1989 and had resulted in a Statement of Agreement contained in document E/ICEF/1989/15. The Statement of Agreement recommended that:

(a) The Summit should be held at United Nations Headquarters on 26 and 27 September 1990 in conjunction with the opening of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly to ensure the largest number of participants;

(b) The Secretary-General of the United Nations should issue invitations on behalf of the six initiators to all Heads of State or Government;

(c) UNICEF should serve as the secretariat for the Summit and its related activities, following approval of the UNICEF Executive Board;

(d) A planning committee should be established to assist the six initiators in organizing the Summit;

(e) The participation of all sectors of society in the preparation of the Summit should be encouraged, including that of international organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media and professional associations, community organizations and public leaders, as well as government authorities at various levels;

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(f) UNICEF should submit a budget proposal for the Summit and the budget should be reviewed by ACABQ.

10. Furthermore, the initiators agreed that the Summit should seek practical solutions to concrete problems and should be a low-cost, result-oriented exercise. It should provide for the genuine exchange of experience, views and concerns among leaders from all over the world. As such, it would be a summit for all children in all countries - both industrialized and developing - and should result in a permanently heightened awareness of and commitment to meeting children's needs world-wide.

11. He stressed that the Summit was a meeting called by the six initiators; it was not a UNICEF event. None the less, the initiators concurred that the endorsement of the UNICEF Executive Board was essential, especially since Board approval was required for UNICEF to serve as the secretariat for the Summit. They recognized the important role of the Executive Board in ensuring the success of the Summit and its need to be regularly informed on the status of preparation. It was suggested that the Planning Committee and the initiators would report to the Board on a regular basis through the Executive Director. Furthermore, it was expected that a major review of plans for the Summit would take place during the regular session of the Executive Board in April 1990.

12. The Executive Director expressed his appreciation for the Permanent Representative's clear and comprehensive statement. He reviewed the potential usefulness of and precedence for the Summit, the reason why 1990 was the "right moment" for the Summit for Children and ways in which the Summit would reinforce the Convention on the Rights of the Child. He drew special attention to the following three issues:

(a) The Executive Board could contribute significantly to the success of the Summit by providing advice on its preparation; integrating Summit goals with the proposed strategies for children in the 1990s; assisting in the drafting of the Declaration of the Summit; and ensuring the participation of all heads of State or Government of the 41 members of the Executive Board;

(b) The proposed Summit for Children would enhance - rather than compete with - the ongoing delivery of UNICEF programmes and services. In each country with which UNICEF co-operated, the Summit would provide an opportunity to spur greater and more strategic attention to programmes and policies affecting children, to capture the attention of national leaders, to attract new allies and to offer new hope to families and communities. The Summit would offer equally promising opportunities for headquarters, National Committees and NGOs at all levels;

(c) The Summit would not adversely affect UNICEF resources. As a matter of fact, it should generate a groundswell of financial support for UNICEF, not just for the event itself, but also for long-term programmes for children. The financial authority that the Executive Board had been requested to give to the secretariat during the current special session would allow preparations to begin immediately and on the appropriate scale to ensure that the Summit was properly planned, pending the receipt of special voluntary contributions, which were encouraged.

13. The Executive Director concluded by describing the Summit as a historic opportunity to secure for children in the 1990s a new and solid place high on the agenda of nations and their leaders and requesting full support of the Executive Board for that crucial initiative.

14. The President of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-fourth session then addressed the Executive Board. He congratulated the six initiators for proposing the World Summit for Children. He also expressed support for the dates, noting that it would be possible for a greater number of heads of State or Government to attend the Summit at that time in conjunction with the General Assembly, thus enhancing commitment at the highest political level for child survival, protection and development.

15. The broad-based support already expressed for the Summit during 1989 was noted, including that expressed by the heads of State or Government participating in the French-speaking Summit in May, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July, the Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries in September and the Commonwealth Summit in October. He described the Summit as an unprecedented opportunity to mobilize all sectors of society for the benefit of children. He also stated that he would express to his successor the wish that all the necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the Summit took place under optimal conditions in September 1990.

C. Support for a World Summit for Children

16. Without exception, delegations expressed support for the Summit as a constructive means of bringing attention to and promoting commitment at the highest national and international political levels to the goals and strategies to ensure the survival, protection and development of children. Delegations expressed the view that the Summit should deal with children's issues in the economic, social and cultural contexts in which they lived, and that it should serve as a catalyst to continue the process of collaborative global efforts to benefit children.

17. Appreciation was also expressed for the fact that the initiators were committed to a work-oriented, efficient and low-cost meeting, and it was felt that the convening of the Summit could lead to improved co-ordination within the United Nations system, whose expertise should be fully utilized. However, one delegation regretted that preparations were being conducted outside normal Executive Board procedures.

D. Proposed dates

18. Several delegations commented favourably on the proposed dates for the Summit (26 and 27 September 1990) suggested by the initiators, noting that they were timely and appropriate and would allow for the widest participation. However, a few delegations disagreed with the proposal, noting that the timing was inconvenient bearing in mind the intense activity at the United Nations during that time, and requested that the dates be revised. It was also felt that the present

scheduling could pose serious problems and risked marginalizing the Summit and detracting from its importance. One delegation expressed concern that there were too many other meetings planned for 1990, but agreed to join the consensus on that issue.

E. Organization of the Summit

19. From the outset of the special session, there was clear consensus on the need for a practical, cost-effective and results-oriented Summit. Many delegations cautioned against "extravaganzas", "empty ceremonies" and "unfocused discussions". For effective preparations, it was felt that close co-ordination among the Planning Committee, the Executive Board and the UNICEF secretariat was vital. Therefore, the role of each should be clearly defined and the Board should be kept fully informed. An in-depth examination of the agenda, the dates, modalities, budgetary aspects and related mobilization activities was required to formulate concrete goals, the results to be achieved and an agenda that truly enhanced the welfare of children. In addition, several delegations expressed the view that all issues should be decided by consensus to allow the greatest number of views to be expressed.

20. In addition, a variety of views were expressed on the role and composition of the Planning Committee, the involvement of other United Nations bodies, the level of representation required and the impact of the Summit on ongoing UNICEF activities. One delegation stressed the importance of involving developing countries at consultative levels and of ensuring geographical representation and balance during the planning process.

21. While consensus existed on the need for both the Summit and extensive UNICEF involvement, there was disagreement on the role of the proposed Planning Committee. Some delegations felt that the UNICEF Executive Board should assume ultimate responsibility for the Summit, especially if it was held under United Nations auspices. There were also differing opinions on whether invitations should be issued exclusively to heads of State or Government or whether their designated representatives could also attend as fully accredited participants.

22. Some concern was expressed about the status of a meeting sponsored by individual heads of State or Government, but to which the Secretary-General of the United Nations issued invitations. The venue of the meeting - United Nations Headquarters - was seen by some to complicate that issue further.

23. The majority of delegations expressed the view that a Summit sponsored by six heads of State or Government should be intended for participants at the highest State or government level. The representatives of the initiators made it clear that, in order to serve the purposes for which it was conceived, the Summit must remain a meeting sponsored and attended by heads of State or Government. They underlined the important role that they hoped the UNICEF Executive Board would play in the substantive preparations for the Summit, and they reiterated their proposal that the 1990 Board should be asked to review the draft of the Summit's final communiqué.

F. Themes of the Summit

24. Many delegations felt that the Summit agenda should reflect the needs of all children and, therefore, move beyond child survival issues. Summit discussions should also reach beyond the traditional mandate of UNICEF and aim at making children a priority concern in all countries throughout the next decade. It was felt the Summit should highlight concrete plans of national action, especially strengthening national capacities, as well as international co-operation for programme evaluation and sustainability. None the less, several delegations stressed the importance of including issues related to the health and survival of children, including immunization, the control of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections (ARIs), improved nutrition and improved water and sanitation facilities.

25. Additionally, issues suggested for consideration included the impact on children of sexual exploitation, war, violence, displacement and forced emigration; the devastating toll of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (especially in sub-Saharan Africa); the negative effects of drug abuse; environmental degradation; the dangers of nuclear contamination; housing shortages; family planning; education and employment opportunities; and household food security. The need to address global problems that directly (or disproportionately) affected children was also stressed, e.g., economic recession, economic disparity and widespread poverty, structural adjustment, external debt and the effects of apartheid and independence struggles. The continuing discrimination against women and young girls, as well as appropriate population activities, were highlighted as a priority issue.

26. Several delegations also stressed the benefits of the Summit for national ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Summit was viewed as a way to garner political support for the Convention, leading to increased commitment to and enforcement of its principles at the national level.

G. Mobilization activities

27. Several delegations requested further information on the nature and purpose of the mobilization activities related to the Summit. While most delegations agreed in principle with the idea of stimulating public awareness and support for the goals of the Summit, some felt that the description of the activities was too vague and their connection to the Summit not clearly expressed. The secretariat explained that the activities were to provide support and assistance to Governments in preparing for the Summit and in undertaking the necessary follow-up at its conclusion. Others felt that the activities seemed to be in line with external relations activities and that therefore their costs should be borne by UNICEF external relations rather than developed as separate Summit-related initiatives.

28. Concern was expressed about the nature and scope of the activities. They had to be well designed and take into account implications for UNICEF programme and resources. However several speakers expressed strong support for the mobilization activities. Through the activities, the intentions and decisions taken at the Summit could be translated into concrete actions for the benefit of all children.

29. The President of the Standing Group of National Committees described adequate mobilization as essential for the Summit to "serve as an opportunity to elevate public awareness and support for the needs of children to unprecedented levels". As a concrete demonstration of their commitment, three National Committees had already made financial contributions for that purpose, and several more had indicated their intention to do so. The President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF outlined a series of meetings and events designed to stimulate public support for the Summit, including national and international consultations and a large-scale NGO conference prior to the Summit itself.

H. Budget issues

30. While reserving their detailed comments for the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance (see annex), several delegations expressed strong support for the views and recommendations contained in the report of the ACABQ (E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.16). Most delegations agreed that the Summit and related activities should be funded from special voluntary contributions and that no regular resources should be expended for that purpose. They further agreed that the present budget estimates contained in document E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.15 should be revised and further reviewed by both ACABQ and the Executive Board at its regular session in April 1990.

31. A few delegations expressed the view that, pending approval by the regular session of the Executive Board, UNICEF should incur expenditures only against assured income (i.e., against money received or pledged in writing for the purpose of the Summit or related activities). Others supported the request of the Executive Director that authorization be given to spend up to a specified ceiling (beyond assured income, if necessary), pending approval of the revised budget in April 1990. They believed that proper preparation of the Summit required flexibility and that the necessary level of funding would be forthcoming.

I. Discussion of draft proposals

32. By the end of the general debate, the special session had before it three draft proposals (E/ICEF/1989/CRP.31, E/ICEF/1989/CRP.32 (which focused on the budget estimates) and E/ICEF/1989/CRP.33).

33. By 20 December, all delegations had agreed that: (a) a World Summit for Children was both worth-while and important; (b) careful preparations should be made both for the Summit and for the resulting Declaration; (c) participation in planning should be open to a larger number of countries; (d) other relevant and interested United Nations organizations should be included in the initiative; (e) UNICEF should provide secretarial support for the preparation of the Summit; (f) the Summit should be cost-effective and budgetary procedures should be established; and (g) appropriate consultations on a suitable date should be pursued.

34. Consensus was not reached, however, on a fundamental issue. While the initiators proposed close collaboration with the UNICEF Executive Board and a

planning committee of 10 to 12 other countries to participate fully in decision-making, they wanted the Summit to maintain its status as an undertaking of the political leaders of the six initiating countries. The UNICEF Executive Board, in other words, should be involved in but not ultimately responsible for the Summit. A number of other delegations, including most of the Latin American and African countries, supported that position.

35. However, several other delegations felt that the Executive Board should be given a more formal role in the organization of the Summit. They felt that a meeting held under United Nations auspices, with UNICEF functioning as the secretariat, should fall under the jurisdiction of the UNICEF Executive Board. That difference of opinion concerned only the organization of the Summit and in no way reflected a lack of commitment to its principles and objectives. It was decided that negotiations should continue, with a view towards resolving that issue.

36. On 22 December 1989, the special session discussed a new draft proposal (E/ICEF/1989/CRP.34) submitted by the Chairman of the Executive Board. The Chairman recalled that the Committee on Administration and Finance had been unable to complete its work because the draft proposal on the budget estimates had not been considered by the Board. The Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance then reported on the Committee meeting that had taken place on 18 December (see annex).

37. The draft proposal was adopted by consensus, after two editorial corrections were made to the draft. (See chap. III for the decision of the Executive Board.)

J. Concluding remarks

38. Speaking on behalf of the six initiators, the Permanent Representative of Canada expressed his appreciation to the Executive Board for its support and commitment to the proposed Summit for Children. He described the consensus resolution as a concrete symbol of commitment and determination to improve the lives of children world-wide. The initiators looked forward to working with all interested parties to ensure the success of the Summit.

39. The Executive Director expressed appreciation to both the initiators and the Board, congratulating them for "opening the door for history to march through" and the Board for endorsing strong UNICEF involvement in both the Summit and related mobilization activities.

K. Other business

40. The Chairman noted the work plan for January 1990. The Bureau would review the rules and organization of work of the Executive Board. A working paper would be prepared and circulated for comments concerning the creation of a working group (see E/ICEF/1989/12, decision 1989/3).

III. DECISION ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 1989 SPECIAL SESSION

1989/31. Decision on a World Summit for Children

On the recommendation of the Chairman of the Executive Board,

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the initiative of the Governments of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden in calling for a World Summit for Children;

2. Takes note of the Statement of Agreement on the Summit, which is contained in document E/ICEF/1989/15, as well as the views expressed by the Executive Board at its special session;

3. Notes the intent that the Summit be held at United Nations Headquarters at the time of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and requests the Executive Director, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to consult Governments on a suitable date for the Summit, taking into account the advice of the Committee on Conferences;

4. Agrees that UNICEF should provide secretariat support for the preparation of the Summit Meeting for Children;

5. Stresses the importance of thorough preparations for this Summit, particularly with regard to a proposed World Declaration for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s that should serve as a main outcome of the Summit;

6. Requests the Executive Director to invite relevant interested United Nations organizations and bodies, particularly the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organisation, to contribute to the preparatory process for the Summit;

7. Takes note of planning arrangements to date and the recent establishment by the initiators of an ad hoc planning committee;

8. Recognizes the important role the six initiating Governments will continue to play in the preparations of the Summit meeting;

9. Requests, in the light of the great interest the international community has shown in the World Summit, that the membership of the ad hoc Planning Committee be expanded to include other interested Governments;

10. Decides that the Executive Board and the Planning Committee should work in close co-operation and consultation in order to ensure that the preparations of the Summit and the proposed Summit Declaration have the maximum support of the international community and, to this end:

(a) Requests the Chairman of the Planning Committee to inform the Executive Board on a regular basis on the state of the preparations of the World Summit;

(b) Decides that the Executive Board will review - on the basis of information provided by the Planning Committee and the Executive Director - the preparations, including agenda, themes, modalities and the proposed Summit Declaration at its session in April, as well as at a special session later in the year, the date of which can be decided during the Board session in April;

11. Requests the Executive Director to revise the draft budgets for the Summit and related mobilization activities for the further review of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, taking into account the views expressed during the Executive Board special session, and to submit the revised budgets to the next meeting of the Executive Board. The maximum ceilings for preparation of the revised budgets should be set to $1.5 million for the Summit and $2.0 million for mobilization activities;

12. Requests the Executive Director to establish a special account for the preparation and organization of the Summit meeting and a special account for mobilization activities related to the Summit, both to be financed from extrabudgetary resources, on the following basis:

(a) Funds would be utilized in accordance with UNICEF Financial Rules and Regulations;

(b) Budgetary funds could be transferred between allotment accounts as required.

13. Decides, as a temporary arrangement and pending the approval of the budget by the Executive Board, that the Executive Director can enter into necessary committal expenditures from general resources in a receivable account for the preparation of the Summit meeting up to an amount of $700,000;

14. Further decides, as a temporary arrangement and pending approval of a revised budget for mobilization activities by the Executive Board, that the Executive Director can enter into necessary commitments for expenditures from general resources in a receivable account up to an amount of $650,000;

15. Appeals to Governments to make voluntary contributions to the special accounts for the World Summit for Children.

Annex

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE ON ITS MEETING HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ON 18 DECEMBER 1989

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Administration and Finance of the United Nations Children's Fund held one meeting, with Mr. Takeshi Kagami (Japan) serving as Chairman.

2. The provisional agenda contained in the annex to document E/ICEF/1989/14 was adopted by the Committee. Observations and inquiries were made by delegations on each agenda item, after which the secretariat provided clarifications and answers.

II. BUDGET ESTIMATES

3. The Committee considered the following:

(a) Budget estimates for the World Summit for Children and Summit-related mobilization activities (E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.15);

(b) Report of ACABQ on the budget estimates for the World Summit for Children and Summit-related mobilization activities (E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.16);

(c) Information note of the Executive Director on the budget estimates for the World Summit for Children and Summit-related mobilization activities (E/ICEF/1989/AB/L.17).

4. Although several delegations recognized the work done by the secretariat on the budget estimates, many of them expressed concern that they did not have enough time to examine the proposals in depth. In view of that fact, numerous delegations voiced their appreciation for the comments received from ACABQ on the budget estimates which had facilitated the work of the Committee.

5. Many delegations expressed concern that significant expenditure for the Summit and related mobilization activities could give rise to accusations of wasting money that could have been used to benefit children directly on a high-level extravaganza. The secretariat responded that every effort would be made to keep expenditures to a minimum and that the Summit and related activities would be designed to benefit children directly.

6. Several questions were raised regarding the submission of the budget estimates to ACABQ before the Board had agreed on holding the Summit. ACABQ had also noted that that was not the normal procedure, which complicated its analysis of the budget estimates. In response, the secretariat explained that it had been done because of time constraints and that the procedure was in fact in line with UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules.

7. Many delegations concurred with the recommendation of ACABQ that the budget should be reformulated to indicate the activities and the costs related to the mobilization aspect of the Summit, as well as to the actual cost of the Summit itself. In addition, the budget should provide justification and clearly relate the staff being requested with the activities that were to be carried out. The secretariat assured the Committee that the comments of ACABQ and those of the delegations would be taken into account in preparing the revised budget estimates for the Summit meeting and the related mobilization activities.

8. Several delegations remarked that there seemed to be some confusion between the Summit and related mobilization activities, especially with regard to staffing and office space, and stressed the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between the two. The secretariat expressed appreciation for the comment, noting that the same staff was being used for both in an effort to be cost-effective and that it would be difficult to maintain separate office facilities. Additionally, one delegation stressed that the expenditures related to the Summit should be closely monitored by the secretariat and the Planning Committee and that a more detailed and thorough report on actual and estimated costs should be submitted to the Executive Board at its 1990 regular session. The secretariat welcomed the challenge and expressed its appreciation to delegations for their concern. The secretariat was also requested to prepare a breakdown of costs between activities and overall costs and assured that it would be done.

9. Other questions with regard to staffing were raised. The seemingly large number of international Professional staff compared to General Service staff was mentioned by several delegations, and the secretariat agreed to study the issue further. One delegation suggested that reductions could be made in staff expenses for programme mobilization, while another delegation felt that special posts for such activities were unnecessary. The secretariat explained that the mobilization budget and the Summit meeting budget proposed a separate Summit secretariat to ensure that the current activities of UNICEF would not be adversely affected.

10. Some delegations were concerned that the mobilization activities appeared to be a continuation of regular UNICEF activities. One delegation remarked further that the activities did not appear to be planned or justified and should fall within the normal activities of UNICEF. Accordingly, the secretariat was requested to provide more detailed information on the planned activities. In that connection, one delegation emphasized that the mobilization activities should not interfere with regular programmes, while another was of the strong opinion that the mobilization activities would, on the contrary, serve to enhance and strengthen current UNICEF activities. The secretariat explained that the goal of the mobilization activities was to facilitate substantive preparatory activities at the country level to generate the political will and public awareness essential for accelerating programme implementation and ensuring that the Summit would have a lasting positive impact on policies benefiting children.

11. One delegation expressed the view that the mobilization activities should be carried out after the Summit meeting and should not interfere with ongoing UNICEF activities. Because it would, in effect, be a new programme, the secretariat was requested to examine the issue and to prepare a document for review at the

1990 regular Board session. The secretariat explained that postponement would jeopardize the heightened impact necessary to mobilize all associated activities leading to a successful and meaningful Summit.

12. One delegation was of the opinion that the costs for budget code 85 (furniture) and budget code 92 (computer equipment) should be financed from the regular budget of UNICEF and that the costs for protocol should be reduced. The secretariat responded that the equipment was being purchased in advance from the regular budget and that the Summit budget was being charged a small proportion of the cost in the way of rental. The secretariat assured that delegation that a reduction of protocol costs would be considered in the revised budget estimates.

13. Many comments were made regarding the procedures for funding the Summit and related mobilization activities. Some delegations were of the opinion that the secretariat should not make commitments for the Summit unless firm pledges were received, while others stated that no mobilization activities should be undertaken until voluntary contributions were received. Most delegations sought assurances from the secretariat that both the Summit and related mobilization activities would be fully funded and that they would fully cover costs. The question of what would happen in the event of a shortfall of funds was also raised. The secretariat responded that mobilization activities would be curtailed if it was noted in a reasonable period of time that funds were not forthcoming, but assured delegations that it was confident that the necessary funds would be available. As a further assurance, the secretariat then informed delegations that firm pledges in the amount of $850,000 had been received from several Governments and National Committees for UNICEF.

14. There were mixed reactions from delegations about the secretariat request to use existing general resources in advance of receiving voluntary contributions. Some delegations were in favour of the proposal, which would allow the secretariat to begin preparations.

15. One delegation was concerned that if the required funds were not received, negative balances would be charged to UNICEF general resources. That delegation, therefore, recommended that contributions for the Summit should be received in a United Nations special account. The secretariat assured delegations that the general resources of the organization would not be charged unless explicitly authorized by the Executive Board. Furthermore, the secretariat explained that if the funds were received in a United Nations special account then the UNICEF secretariat would not be able to perform the certifying function for the use of those funds and, as such, would not be able to serve as the secretariat for the Summit.

16. Some delegations were concerned that UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules must be used and requested clarification on how the special account would be operated for the meeting and mobilization activities and what authority existed for the secretariat to have a special account. The secretariat assured delegations that the special accounts would be operated within the scope of UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules, which were even more detailed than those of the United Nations, and that the special account would be established in accordance with UNICEF financial rules 105.1, 105.2, 105.3 and 105.4.

17. Several recommendations were made, including confining advance expenditures to the volume of pledges and taking advances only from the interregional fund for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation (IFPPE) since it was felt that the Summit-related mobilization activities were consistent with the purpose for which the fund was established. The secretariat responded that the advance use of general resources was merely a temporary depletion of UNICEF cash balances and that no programme account would be charged in the interim. The secretariat further explained that once the voluntary contributions for the Summit were received, the advance accounts would be depleted and transferred to the special accounts established to monitor the finances of the Summit and that, therefore, it would not be necessary to charge the IFPPE account.

18. One delegation requested an explanation on the manner in which budgetary funds would be transferred between allotment accounts. The secretariat replied that UNICEF would use the transfer authority that had already been approved by the Executive Board for its regular budget.

19. There was general agreement among delegations that funds could be advanced from general resources, but the secretariat was again requested to provide further clarification on what steps would be taken if there was a shortfall of funds for mobilization activities. The secretariat responded that any possible shortfall would be met by a possible reduction in other areas of the revised budget and that the Summit would not entail costs for the regular budget if all contributions were received.

20. One delegation wanted to know whether the holding of the Summit would result in additional costs being charged to the regular budget of the United Nations. The secretariat assured that all costs were included in the Summit budget and that, as a result, there would be no financial implications for the United Nations.

21. In that connection, another delegation was concerned that UNICEF had budgeted for maximum possible requirements for the Summit meeting and felt that the budget should be minimized and not maximized. The secretariat explained that that part of the Summit budget had been prepared in consultation with the United Nations Controller and was the maximum possible reimbursement of costs to the United Nations for holding the Summit meeting. It was felt that costs could be less.

22. The secretariat was also requested to avoid excessive expenditure and to keep costs to a bare minimum. One delegation was concerned that the costs for travel, audio-visual materials, the media and office space were too high and that the need for such high-level representation seemed to be unwarranted. The secretariat responded that those considerations would be taken into account when preparing the revised budget estimates and assured the delegation that the amount for office space was the minimum cost of what was obtainable in the area of New York around the United Nations and that there was no extra office space in UNICEF House to accommodate the Summit secretariat. The secretariat assured participants that, in preparing the revised budget, further stringency measures would be considered and it hoped that further reductions could be made in the revised budget proposals.

23. With regard to representation, an NGO delegate said that input for the Summit should also be extended to NGOs from all countries and not be restricted to only international NGOs. That was duly noted by the secretariat.

24. Although delegations agreed in principle to the holding of the Summit, they could not reach consensus on approving the budget estimates without further review by ACABQ. Therefore, the secretariat was requested to revise the budget proposals, taking into account their comments and concerns, as well as the recommendations of ACABQ, and submit the revised budget estimates to ACABQ for final Board approval at its April 1990 session. However, it was generally agreed that the Executive Board should give the secretariat interim financial approval, as well as the flexibility, to proceed with preparations for the Summit. In addition, the secretariat was requested to establish a practical time-table. The secretariat thanked delegations for their faith in it to proceed with the Summit activities within the flexible criteria that would be considered at the present session.

25. The secretariat stated that it appreciated the concerns expressed about the difficulty of approving the budget estimates, but stressed the need for a preliminary ceiling for start-up activities. Two delegations proposed a temporary ceiling of $1 million for incurring expenditures and commitments between that date and the April 1990 Executive Board meeting. Another delegation wanted the ceiling set at between $1.2 million and $1.5 million for the Summit and less than $2.5 million for programme mobilization. An upper limit for expenditures of $4.9 million for both the Summit meeting and mobilization activities was proposed by another delegation, which stressed that the secretariat should not enter into commitments beyond 20 per cent of the amounts pledged for Summit-related activities by member States and NGOs prior to the next session of the Executive Board. The secretariat responded that $4.9 million would indeed be the upper limit, but expressed the hope that that amount could be further reduced. The secretariat also emphasized that the 20 per cent limitation would create difficulties for UNICEF to proceed with the planned activities for the Summit.

26. The need for a consensus approach to all decisions related to the financing of the Summit based on clarifications of all modalities of the Summit was stressed by several delegations. However, because no decision could be reached on the proposed budget estimates, the meeting was adjourned to allow time for informal consultations among delegations. a/

Notes

a/ At the 13th meeting of the Executive Board on Friday, 22 December 1989, the Chairman of the Committee noted the broad and differing range of views expressed by delegations on the proposed budgets for the Summit and related mobilization activities and reported that the informal discussions had led to the preparation of a single, comprehensive draft proposal on all matters relating to the Summit, including the budgetary questions considered by the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee stated that, therefore, the draft proposal would be submitted to the plenary session for approval by the Chairman of the Executive Board (see also chap. II, paras. 30 and 31 and 36 and 37 and chap. III).